

Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 12, 2001 NR01-022

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Bottlenose Dolphin/Fishery Interaction Workshop

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will convene the second of two workshops on July 11 and 12, 2001, to share data and other information relative to bottlenose dolphin/fishery interactions. The workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Research Triangle Park in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday and ending by 5 p.m. on Thursday. Individuals representing a variety of interested/affected parties from the fishing community, regional Fishery Management Councils, interstate commissions, academic and scientific organizations, environmental groups, and NMFS will participate in these workshops, which will be open to the public.

Several Atlantic marine mammal Take Reduction Teams (TRTs) are currently active and a TRT for bottlenose dolphin will soon be formed. TRTs recommend measures to NMFS that will reduce fishing gear/marine mammal interactions.

These workshops will provide participants with essential background information on bottlenose dolphin and fishery interactions in advance of NMFS convening the Bottlenose Dolphin TRT. Topics of discussion for the July workshop include bottlenose dolphin mortality estimates and information on fisheries that interact with bottlenose dolphins.

For further information on these meetings, please call Bill Foster, Southeast Region Fishery Outreach Coordinator, at (252) 986-2430 or fosfish@earthlink.net.